MED. LIBRARY

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Blake and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1925 upon the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the Borough.

The Ministry of Health in a Circular (No. 648) which was issued on the 10th. December, 1925, intimated that the Report for the past year should be a Survey Report, dealing comprehensively with

(a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public health.

(b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, and

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services contemplated by the local authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

As, however, my appointment as Medical Officer of Health was only effected on the 1st. January, 1926, I am unable to submit as full information as is desired, but I am endeavouring to supply as complete a Report as I can from the sources at my disposal.

As far as I am aware no extensice changes have taken place in the area during the years 1921 - 1925.

The Ministry has asked that the Report should follow a prescribed form with certain main headings, and I have framed this accordingly.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Droitwich is situated approximately in the centre of the County of Worcestershire, and stands on the River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn.

MED. LIBRARY

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBER OF MINISTRY.

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938 upon the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the Borough.

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(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services contemplated by the local authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

As, however, my appointment as Medical Officer of Health was only effected on the 1st. January, 1939, I am unable to submit as full information as is desired, but I am endeavouring to supply as complete a Report as I can from the sources at my disposal.

As far as I am aware no material changes have taken place in the area during the years 1931 - 1938.

The Ministry has stated that the Report should follow a prescribed form with certain main headings, and I have framed this accordingly.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Pontypool is situated approximately in the centre of the County of Monmouthshire, and stands on the River Avon, a tributary of the River

The acreage of the town is 1,856 and the population at the 1921 Census was 4,588, while the estimated population for 1925 as supplied to me by the Registrar General is 3,853.

This large decrease at first sight appears remarkable, and I therefore quote the following form memorandum issued by the Registrar General, viz.,

"The Census of 1921, originally planned for the 24th of April, 1921, was unavoidably postponed until the 19th. of June, and it is clear that while the latter date avoided the recognised programme of industrial holidays some holiday movement was, largely owing to the abnormally fine weather, already then in progress. This is reflected in the Census returns by the inclusion in the case of the more popular holiday resorts of varying and sometimes substantial proportions of visitors. Yet another factor is the

Yet another factor is the migration of some of the salt workers to Stoke Works, reference to which is made later.

The larger part of the town is on the river level, which is low, but the expanding portion of the Borough appera to be the Witton end, which is very considerably higher.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 978, and the estimated number of families or separate occupiers for that year was 1,028.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £22,513. The sum represented by a penny rate being £87.11.8.

For many centuries the principal industry of Droitwich has been salt making. A few years ago the main centre of this work was transferred to Stoke Works, and although a great number of workers were effected by the transference the majority continue to travel to and fro daily.

The natural waters of the Town are of great value in the treatment of rheumatism and kindred ailments, a circumstance which is the means of bringing many visitors to Droitwich. The increasing development of Droitwich as a Spa

The acreage of the town is 1,[illegible] and the population at the 1921 Census was [illegible], while the estimated population for 1925 as supplied to me by the Registrar General is [illegible].

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The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 974, and the estimated number of families or separate occupiers for that year was 1,022.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £[illegible], the sum represented by a penny rate being £[illegible].

For many centuries the principal industry of Droitwich has been salt making. A few years ago the main centre of this work was transferred to Stoke Works, and although a great number of workers were affected by the transference the majority continue to travel to and fro daily.

The natural waters of the town are of great value in the treatment of rheumatism and kindred illnesses, a circumstance which is the means of bringing many visitors to Droitwich. The increasing development of Droitwich as a

and the provision of accomodation for the many visitors affords the other main occupation of the town, and there are fruitful possibilities in this direction.

There are no large factories in the Borough, and there is an absence of any particular occupation which may be said to have either a benificial or prejudicial - effect on the public health.

The following are the vital statistics of the Borough, viz :

No. of Births.	(Legitiamte)	68.
" " "	(Illegitimate)	1.
	Total	69.
Birth Rate per 1,000.		17.9.
Average annual birth rate 1920 - 1924.		20.4.
No. of deaths.		55.
Death rate per 1,000.		14.3.
Average annual death rate. 1920 - 1924.		15.1.
No. of deaths of infants under one year of age.		3.
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births.		43.
Average annual Infantile Mortality 1920 - 1924.		61.

It must be remembered that in dealing with a small population fluctuation in rates is very probable as the occurrence of a few more or a few less births and deaths cause an appreciable difference in the rate per 1,000.

The Infantile Mortality is low, and the Borough is to be congratulated on this fact.

The following were the causes of 55 deaths in the Borough last year, viz:

Influenza. ----------	5.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	3.
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.	1.
Cancer. ----------	6.
Diabetes. ----------	1.
Cerebral Haemorrhage. --------	4.
Heart Disease. ----------	5.
Arterio Sclerosis. ----------	3.
Bronchitis. ----------	3.
Pneumonia. (All forms) -------	3.

and the provision of accommodation for the many visitors enjoying the other main occupation of the town, and there are fruitful possibilities in this direction.

There are no large factories in the Borough, and there is an absence of any particular occupation which may be said to have either a beneficial or prejudicial effect on the public health.

The following are the vital statistics of the Borough, viz:

No. of Births. (Legitimate)	68.
" " " (Illegitimate)	3.
Total	69.
Birth rate per 1,000.	17.9.
Average annual birth rate 1880 - 1884.	20.4.
No. of deaths.	55.
Death rate per 1,000.	14.3.
Average annual death rate. 1880 - 1884.	16.1.
No. of deaths of infants under one year of age.	3.
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Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	3.
Other Tuberculous Diseases.	1.
Cancer.	6.
Diabetes.	1.
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	4.
Heart Disease.	8.
Arterio Sclerosis.	3.
Bronchitis.	3.
Pneumonia. (All forms)	[illegible]

Other Respiratory Diseases.	4.
Cirrhosis of Liver. ----------	1.
Nephritis. ----------	2.
Diseases of Pregnancy, etc. ---	1.
Congenital Debility, etc. -----	2.
Deaths from violence. --------	2.
Other defined diseases. -------	10.
Total.	55.

It will be seen that no disease is so especially prevalent that it would call for particular comment.

The amount of Poor Law relief was dispensed as follows : Parish of Droitwich £1,659. 0. 0.

A certain number of cases are admitted to the Poor Law Institution for treatment, and in addition to this, cases are sent from outside areas as patients for brine baths treatment in accordance with a Scheme approved by the Ministry of Health. Payment for these cases is made to the Board of Guardians by the Authorities concerned.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(A) In general, in addition to the Hospitals in the Borough making provision for the treatment of rheumatism, of which there are several, the main treatment for general medical and surgical illness is provided by the Worcester General Infirmary, the Kidderminster General Hospital and the Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital all of which are easily accessible.

There is also a Convalescent Home in the Borough, but this is only available for Birmingham workers.

(B) Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis cases are treated under the County Council Scheme. Pulmonary cases are, in the main, dealt with at Knightwick Sanatorium, and non-pulmonary cases at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, the "Woodlands," and the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

(C) Maternity.

There is no maternity hospital in the Borough, but beds are available at the Poor Law Institution

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Cirrhosis of Liver. ----------	1.
Nephritis. ----------	2.
Diseases of Pregnancy, etc. ---	1.
Congenital Debility, etc. -----	2.
Deaths from violence. --------	2.
Other defined diseases. -------	10.
Total.	50.

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(C) Maternity.

There is no maternity hospital in the Borough, but beds are available at the Poor Law Institution

for caes where the home conditions are unsuitable.

No special provision is made in the way of a hostel for unmarried mothers.

(D) Children.

No special hospital for children exists in the Borough, but a new Children's Department has been opened at Kidderminster. In the past, some cases have received treatment at Worcester or Bromsgrove.

(E) Fever.

The Borough is one of the constituent authorities of the Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Hospital Committee, whose Hospital is situated at Hill Top, near Bromsgrove.

(F) Smallpox.

The Borough is included in the area of the above mentioned Hospital Committee, which formerly maintained a Hospital for the isolation of smallpox cases at Woodgate, near Stoke Prior.

When this Hospital fell into disuse the Joint Committee made arrangements for any cases arising to be dealt with at the Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital Committee's Smallpox Hospital, which is near Halesowen.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Cases.

An ambulance for this type of case is provided by the Joint Hospital Committee.

(b) Non-infectious and accident cases.

The Red Cross Society have an ambulance at Worcester which is available for use in these cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No Infant Welfare Centre exists in Droitwich. Infants under the age of 3 years are visited at their homes by the County Council Health Visitor, who is resident in Droitwich. The nearest centre is at Bromsgrove, which is held at the Drill Hall, each Wednesday, at 2.30. p.m.

A School Clinis for the treatment of elementary

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Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No Infant Welfare Centre exists in Droitwich. Infants under the age of 5 years are visited at their home by the County Council Health Visitor, who is resident in Droitwich. The nearest centre is at Bromsgrove, which is held at the Drill Hall, each Wednesday, at 2.30. p.m.

A School Clinic for the treatment of elementary

school children suffering from minor ailments is held at each Monday and Friday, at 10.0 a.m., at the St. Andrew's Parish Room, Ricketts Lane.

The nearest Tuberculosis Dispensaries are those at Worcester and Bromsgrove, which are held weekly as follows :

Worcester. Public Health Department, 29, Foregate Street.
Wednesday. 3. 0. p.m.

Bromsgrove. Old Technical School, New Road.
Thursday. 4.30. p.m.

There is no Venereal Disease Clinic in Droitwich, but cases can be treated at either of the undermentioned Centres:

Worcester Infirmary.

Kidderminster Hospital.

Birmingham General Hospital. (Steelhouse Lane.)

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

My appointment as Medical Officer of Health is a part time one only, but the Borough Surveyor, who also acts as Sanitary Inspector, is a whole time official.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.

There is a District Nursing Association employing one Nurse. A number of other nurses resident in the Borough are mainly engaged in massage work and in attendance on visitors to the town for Spa treatment.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

No provision is made for the nursing of infectious diseases such as Measles, etc.

Midwives.

There are two midwives (neither of whom is subsidised by the Borough Council) resident in the town, and in addition the District Nurse undertakes midwifery cases.

Chemical Work.

The analytical and bacteriological work of the

Borough is undertaken by the County Analyst, Shirehall, Worcester.

Legislation in force.

There are no local Acts and no special Local Orders in force in the Borough. The Public Health Act, 1907, has been adopted, and although the Public Health Act, 1925, has not yet been adopted I understand the Council are taking steps to have the relevant provisions made enforceable in the Borough.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The water supply, provided by the East Worcestershire Water Works Company, is adequate, and I am informed that the quality is invaribly good.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Salwarpe, a tributary of the River Severn, runs through the town. The Birmingham and Worcester Canal also passes through the Borough.

I understand a recent Conference of all Authorities in the basin of the River Severn was held at Worcester when the opinion was expressed that the River Severn appeared from a survey made to be in good condition

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the Borough has for several years been a source of anxiety to the Medical Officer of Health. The flooding of the lower part of High Street has occurred several times, and the material loss to individuals, and the danger to the community, is, I understand, fully appreciated by the Ministry of Health, one of whose Inspectors recently visited Droitwich in this connection. For this reason, I do not intend to make any further comment upon this particular matter.

Difficulty has been encountered at the Witton end of the town, in Princes Avenue, where the levels are wrong and where connection with the main drainage can only be carried out by a pumping system. The whole

question of the sewerage of Droitwich is at present under consideration.

The sewage works are situated to the North West of the town and consists of a farm of 30 acres. The effluent makes its way into the River Salwarpe.

Closet Accomodation.

Some privies have been converted during recent years.

Scavenging.

A complete system of scavenging exists in the Borough. Figures repating to this are given in the Report of the Borough Surveyor, which is attached.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The tabular Report of the Borough Surveyor, which is appended, gives particulars of the work carried out last year.

Schools.

It was necessary to close the Droitwich C. E. Schools (all departments) from the 30th. January, to the 23rd. of February, 1925, owing to the prevalence of Influenza.

HOUSING.

General.

Mention has already been made of the migration of some of the salt workers from Droitwich to Stoke Works, which, although not extensive, may be assumed to have eased the housing conditions in the Borough to a slight degree. Some new houses have been built during the year in Prodzor Road, Hill End. A number of other houses have been erected, and reference to this and other matters connected with housing is made ~~to~~ in the Borough Surveyor's Report.

The difficulty of building houses which can be let at an economical rent is the most serious obstacle to further enterprise in this direction.

Overcrowding.

I have not had an extreme case of overcrowding

brought to my notice, and although a few isolated cases may exist I do not think Droitwich can be considered to be worse than other areas in this respect.

Fitness of houses.

There is a certain number of houses the standard of which is poor, but it must be also stated that in the majority of these cases the rental is very low. Some houses have no through ventilation owing to the absence of back - doors or windows. In some instances, too, the wash-house accomodation is on a far from generous scale and one wash-house has to serve a number of houses,

I do not propose to make any comment upon the effect of flooding in the lower part of the town as this matter is already under extensive review.

Difficulty is experienced in dealing with houses which normally should be condemned as unfir for habitation, but in regard to which it is useless to issue a Closing - Order as no alternative accomodation exists for the - dispossed tenants. This factor has undoubtedly acted as a deterrent in many cases where the obvious action would be to declare a dwelling unfit.

Housing Statistics.

These will be found in the Report of the Borough Surveyor.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

New Orders made under the Milk and Dairies - (Consolidation) Act, 1925, will become operative on the 1st. October, 1926, by which the duty of inspection of all - premises used in the connection with the production and - supply of milk is laid upon the Authority

No comment upon the milk supply of the Borough appears to be necessary.

(b) Meat.

There is no public slaughter house. The five

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There is no public slaughter house. The five

licensed ones all appear to be conducted in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The Borough Surveyor deals with the question of meat inspection in his Report.

PREVALENCE OF, aAND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

As far as I can gather from the Returns, - - infectious diseases in the Borough during last year were not exceptional.

No use apparently was made of Schick and Dick tests in cases of Diptheria and Scarlet fever respectively, and in view of the present state of knowledge of these tests I do not feel justified in making any strong recommendation that they should be put into operation.

Influenza was prevalent during the year, but the type was not severe.

Seven cases of scarlet fever occured (one of which was anpimported case). All these cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, as were also four cases of diptheris which were notified.

These figures do not call for special comment.

Tuberculosis.

Three pulmonary and two non-pulmonary cases were notified during the year.

Veneral Disease.

The administration of facilities for the treatment of these diseases is an activity of the County Council, and reference to the available Clinics has already been made.

I have endeavoured to submit as complete a Report as I can, and for the assistance towards this end which they have so readily accorded me I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. Arthur V. Holyoake, the Town Clerk, and to Mr. H.Hulse, the Borough Surveyor.

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Keith S.Roden. M.B.

Droitwich.
August, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health for
Borough of Droitwich.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY